

The CAS Computer Committee Fall 2015 Semester Report

The CAS Computer Committee held three meetings this semester. The initial meeting, called by Dr. Elizabeth Bell, served to welcome new and continuing committee members, to identify technology needs within CAS Departments, and to elect 2 members (Claudia Cooperman and Laura Connor) to act as co-chairs for the Fall and Spring semesters.

The first meeting was a brainstorming session where committee members explored topics for future discussion and decided on a committee goal. Topics we hope to address this year as a committee include: (1) USF web branding and how departments can regain control of their websites, (2) online teaching initiatives and how they impact faculty, (3) how to raise awareness about IT, new technologies and new software, (4) discovering resources for Canvas and learning about upcoming changes (5) educating CAS departments about current online academic initiatives. Our focus as a committee this year will be on improving communication between departments and the IT community and providing CAS departments with information about current teaching technologies and available technology resources.

In an effort to facilitate communication a Canvas group was organized, ORG01863. As a result, all committee members can remain involved in group discussions, even when meeting times prevent attendance due to scheduling conflicts. The Canvas site also acts as a repository for resources presented at meetings.

At the 2nd meeting, committee members were introduced to Erin Bryan, CAS Director of Online Academic Initiatives. Erin was invited to talk about the Innovative Education Online Course Development Process. Faculty voiced their concerns about course ownership, and losing control of and getting credit for their academic content after developing an online course. What became clear is that the online course development program serves the department as a whole and should be undertaken as a group effort. IE is not interested in owning the course, it belongs to the department. This enables multiple faculty to be the lead instructor for the online course during different semesters. Erin also discussed the CAS application process for online course support. All information and resources from this meeting, including the audio, are posted on the committee Canvas site so members can share the information with their home departments.

The 3rd meeting was devoted to the discussion of upcoming changes to Canvas. Erin Bryan gave an overview of the most important changes: 1) the new canvas user interface, 2) a new online proctoring system for exams, Proctorio, and 3) updates to the Turnitin tool which will affect assignment turn-in and plagiarism checking within canvas starting this Spring. Again, committee members can find information on the Canvas site and should disseminate this information to their departments.



Laura Connor
Claudia Cooperman
Co-Chairs